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ESTABLISHED 1857.

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Hongkong, 26th May, 1896.

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**The Daily Press.**

HONGKONG, JULY 3rd, 1896.

A most shameful fraud is disclosed in an  
ingeniously framed letter by the *Indo-  
China*, *France*, the writer apparently being  
quite unconscious of any sense of wrong  
in the matter. Our contemporary has been  
publishing a series of articles on the cotton  
industry in Indo-China, and in the course  
of the argument the preference of the  
native for well known cotton is referred to.  
"It is necessary," says the writer, "to  
support the mills established in Yunnan  
in order that our native may be able to  
compete advantageously with foreign  
goods, the sale of which is so con-  
siderable in all the markets in our  
possession. We recollect trials made by  
some of our compatriots to sell the  
"Annamite cotton yarn to French origin."  
The natives recognised the superiority of  
the French thread, but even at the same  
price they would not buy it. They were  
accustomed to use English cotton of so  
many hanks to the kilogramme and with  
a certain mark on the package and they  
would have no other. They were shown  
that the French thread was whiter, more  
solid, that the weight of the packages was  
the same. They looked only at the mark  
and asked for English yarn No. 20,  
"30," or "40." This spirit of routine among  
them had so little reason that one of our  
friends having several sales of French  
yarn in his godowns and being unable  
to get rid of them except by buying  
English labels, removing the French ones,  
and the goods were then eagerly sought after.  
We should not like to suppose that frauds  
of this kind were common amongst our  
French neighbours, nor is it very likely,  
for the Frenchman's difficulty is that  
he is unable to produce goods to compete  
in price with those of other countries,  
and there is no advantage to be  
gained by affixing fraudulent marks to  
goods which cannot be sold for the same  
price as the goods to which the mark pro-  
perly belongs. Nevertheless, the circum-  
stances remind us of the fact that British  
interests in Yunnan are entirely unpre-  
sented and unprotected, although this impor-  
tant trade consists very largely of British goods.  
There are no British Consuls in the  
country, and no British Consul is maintained  
there. A Consul would certainly have  
little regular consular work to do, with none  
of his nationals to claim his attention and  
very rarely the entry of a British ship to  
take note of, but as a gatherer of commercial

information such an officer might render  
valuable service and might perhaps open  
pave the way for the establishment of  
British firms. At all events he would be  
able to keep merchants and manufacturers  
informed of the progress of the country, its  
requirements, the treatment accorded to  
British goods, and any abuses that might  
spring up and call for redress.

In the communication addressed by the  
Chinking Chamber of Commerce to Mr.  
BYRON BRENAN upon matters affecting  
British trade in China there is one recom-  
mendation made the wisdom of which is,  
in our view, doubtful. The recommendation  
is that "titular Consuls should be permitted,  
when possible, to remain in their posts  
undisturbed, as thus they can acquire a  
"practical and intimate knowledge of local  
trade and the advancement of British  
"interests be promoted." Other things  
being equal, we should say British interests  
would be more likely to be promoted by a  
Consul who had experience of the trade of  
other ports as well as of that which he may  
happen to be stationed. It is only by the  
objection of a port to the removal of a  
Consul who has identified himself with the  
interests of the community and has served  
those interests energetically and well, but  
taking a more comprehensive view it must  
be recognised that there are advantages in  
giving our Consuls a diversified experience  
and by periodic changes preventing their  
getting into a rut. In the Colonial Service  
a Governor's term of office is six years, but  
perhaps that can hardly be cited as an  
exception in point, as the arrangement is  
made probably more with a view to the  
interests of the Service by preventing  
a block in promotion than with a view  
to the interests of the colonies. An  
example more in point is that of the  
Chinese Foreign Customs Service. Sir  
ROBERT HART came to act on the principle  
of keeping his Commissioners frequently on  
the move, and that without any reference  
to the question of promotion. A Commissioner  
sits in two or three years in one port and  
then is transferred to another, and it is the  
same in the junior branches of the Service,  
so that every member of it has the ad-  
vantage of becoming acquainted not only  
with the trade of a particular port, but also  
with the trade of the whole country. In  
the British Consular Service in China  
changes also are not infrequent, due to  
furlough and occasional retirements, and  
on the whole we are inclined to think  
these changes must be beneficial to the in-  
terests the Consuls are supposed to promote.  
If in some cases change may be unwelcome  
to one port it will probably be correspond-  
ingly welcome and advantageous to another.  
Perhaps it might not be desirable to follow  
the example of the Chinese Customs Service  
in its very frequent changes, but on the  
other hand there does not seem to be any  
substantial reason for striving after perma-  
nence, as advocated by the Chinking  
Chamber. The more experience a Consul  
has the better able will he be to serve the  
interests of the port at which he happens to  
be stationed, and experience is to be gained  
by moving from one port to another.

Yesterday there were two cases of plague  
in the city and one in Kowloon.

The C.P. steamer *Empress of China* arrived  
at Vancouver at 6 a.m. on the last instant.

The steamer *Lennox* left Singapore on  
Wednesday last for Hongkong on about Tues-  
day, the 7th instant.

His Excellency the Governor has fixed Tues-  
day, the 7th July, for the execution of the  
Wanchai murders.

At Bangkok the other day a Siamese woman  
gave birth to three daughters and one son.  
They did not, however, live long.

We understand that official information has  
been received stating that there is a marked  
decrease in the prevalence of tubercle plague at  
Amoy, although there are still a few cases.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial  
and Netherlands Hospitals begs to acknowledge  
with thanks the following donations to the  
fund of the Hospitals:

C. W. Saunders ... £15  
W. J. Saunders ... 10

We (each Echo) hear of the following  
changes in the British Consular Service:  
Mr. H. H. Fox is appointed to the French  
Consulate at Hongkong, and Mr. H. H. Fox  
is appointed to the French Consulate at  
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to the French Consulate at Hongkong.

Yesterday afternoon the usual fortnightly  
meeting of the Sanitary Board was held at  
a quorum could not be obtained. Mr. J. E. Ede,  
the latter being absent from colony. The  
President (Mr. A. Cooper) consequently  
adjourned the meeting until next Thursday  
evening, the 11th inst. The members present  
were asked to remain behind to privately consider the  
estimates for next year.

A series of articles on the cotton industry  
in Indo-China, recently appeared in the  
*Indo-China*, *France*, one of the promoters of  
the mill established at Hanoi recently came out  
from France to investigate for himself the  
state of the cotton industry in Indo-China.  
These difficulties arise principally from the  
small production of the raw material in the  
country and the irregularity of the supply in  
the market. To meet this the Government  
has made proposals to the Government  
for the encouragement of the cultivation of cotton  
by the natives, but being met with a refusal  
to encourage it. The Government has also  
encouraged the cultivation of cotton by the  
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There seems to be something peculiar in the  
postal arrangements at Bangkok. We yesterday  
received papers from that port of the 23rd  
and 24th May, together with some of a month's  
later date.

The young Crown Prince of Siam is a boy  
who will probably make his mark later on.  
In addition to his knowledge of English, he is  
a student of the European languages, he writes  
English fluently, and has contributed a short  
story to a magazine. He is in Siam well known  
also as a promising young man.

The Marquis de Morés, whose death was  
reported a few days ago, had a remarkable  
career, a sketch of which is given by the *Asiatic*  
to the Marquis was murdered while  
proceeding to Ghadames. At the extremity  
of the oasis of that name resided the chief of the  
Elmouss, one of the most powerful and most  
honest of the religious associations of the Ma-  
hommedan world. It is known that a depot  
of arms has been established there, and at any  
time a signal for a holy war against France  
domination in Northern Africa might be given.  
The Marquis was proceeding to Ghadames to  
investigate the matter.

Nothing therefore, say our contemporaries,  
surprising except the tenacity of the  
Marquis. A violent and successful soldier,  
he carried his good qualities to his corres-  
ponding faults, being extremely in everything.  
His life was a continuous struggle, and in an  
adventurous career he died in an early age.

He went to America and became infected with  
the large commercial conception of that  
country. He started a small business and took  
the best amongst the business of Chicago.  
He lost money, naturally, and returned  
to Europe. He stayed some time in his  
own circle, and then left for the East. He landed  
in Tonkin and there made application for a  
concession for a railway, which was to start  
from a deep-water port and end at the  
border of the French colony. He was to be  
given the right to exploit the land and the  
minerals which were to be his own.  
This most legitimate and most profitable  
speculation, however, was not to be his  
lot. The French Government, in the name of  
the great authorities of Tonkin, and nothing  
came of the negotiations.

Mr. John Peels The Laird ... 12th. 7th.  
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